

**Political Science BC3200**  
**American Political Development**  
**Fall 2013**

Prof. Daniel Kato

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Office Hours: T: 11-1 or by appointment

Class Meeting: MW 11:40-12:55

**Course Description:**

American Political Development (APD) is an emerging subfield within American Politics that focuses on the ways that political culture, ideology, governing structures (executives, legislatures, judiciaries, and subnational governments) and structures of political linkage (political parties and organized interests) shape the development of political conflict and public policy. Rejecting the fragmentation of the field of American Politics into narrow specialties, it links government, politics, policy, culture, and economics in a broad-gauged search for understanding.

This course will seek to answer the following questions: Is the United States a liberal country and if so, what are we to make of the persistent occurrence of seemingly illiberal practices such as racism and sexism? What are the constitutive elements that compose the American state and how does the interaction across these elements shape and affect public policy? Are there ways of synthesizing the debates regarding American liberalism and the American state? What might be the future of APD and what are some challenges to APD?

Readings will be extensive and challenging, with the goal of providing a strong foundation for further research or application to your particular areas of interest. Please do not hesitate to email me or to come to office hours if you have any questions or comments about the material or issues covered in class.

**Class Participation:**

An overview of the readings for the week will be covered at the beginning of each class. The rest of the class time will focus on interrogating the broader questions and themes that are our focus for the semester. You are expected to read the assignments for class, participate in all seminar sessions and to contribute thoughtful and informed questions and comments to the discussion. Students share a responsibility in ensuring that class time is used productively. Remember, this seminar will succeed only to the extent that you participate.

**Research Presentation**

A research presentation or a literature review will be required for this class. Instructions for the research paper and literature review are attached to the end of the syllabus.

**Summary due dates:**

Research proposal – September 23

Rough Draft – December 2

Final Presentation - December 4 & December 9

**Grading:**

Class Participation 20%

Midterm 20%

Lit Review/Research Presentation 30%

Final Paper 30%

Total 100%

**Course Readings**

Course books are available at Columbia University Bookstore. Books will also be available at Barnard Library Reserve.

Louis Hartz, *The Liberal Tradition in America*

Karen Orren and Stephen Skowronek, *The Search for American Political Development*

Aziz Rana, *The Two Faces of American Freedom*

Stephen Skowronek, *Building an American State*

Jacob Hacker, *The Divided Welfare State*

Ira Katznelson, *Fear Itself*

**Statement on Academic Honesty**

In this class, we will be analyzing the thoughts, arguments and evidence of others. This work will be critical in helping you to develop your own ideas. Plagiarism occurs when you present someone else's ideas, arguments, or evidence as your own without attribution or acknowledgement. Plagiarism occurs in (but is not limited to) the following instances: copying or paraphrasing someone else's writing without acknowledgement; using someone else's facts or ideas without acknowledgement; handing in someone else's work, or work that you have handed in for credit for another course.

PART I – Liberalism and its Discontents

**Class 2,3,4,5 (9/4, 9/9, 9/11, 9/16)**

Louis Hartz, *The Liberal Tradition in America*, p. 1-86, 89-142, 145-200, 203-309

**Class 6 (9/18)**

Eric Foner, "Why is there no Socialism in the United States?" in *History Workshop Journal*, p. 57-77

Rogers Smith, "Beyond Tocqueville, Myrdal and Hartz: The Multiple Traditions in America," in *American Political Science Review*, p. 549-566

Ira Katznelson, "Books in Review: Civic Ideals: Conflicting Visions of Citizenship in U.S. History," in *Political Theory*, p. 565-570

**Class 7 (9/23)**

Karen Orren and Stephen Skowronek, *The Search for American Political Development*: p. ix-77

**9/23 - RESEARCH PAPER PROPOSAL DUE**

**Class 8 (9/25) – GO OVER RESEARCH PAPER PROPOSALS**

**Class 9, 10,11, 12 (9/30, 10/2, 10/7, 10/9)**

Victoria Hattam and Joseph Lowndes, "The Ground Beneath Our Feet: Language, Culture, and Political Change" in *Formative Acts*, edited by Stephen Skowronek and Matthew Glassman p.199-219

Aziz Rana, *Two Faces of American Freedom*, p. 1-98, 99-175, 176-296, 296-348

**Class 13 (10/14) - MIDTERM**

PART 2 – Stating the State

**Class 14 (10/16)**

Theda Skocpol, "Bringing the State Back in" in *Bringing the State Back in*, edited by Peter Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol, p.3-43

J.P. Nettl, "The State as a Conceptual Variable" in *World Politics*, p. 559-592

Karen Orren and Stephen Skowronek, *The Search for American Political Development* p. 78-201

**Class 15, 16 (10/21, 10/23)**

Stephen Skowronek, *Building an American State*, preface–162, 163-292)

**Class 17, 18, 19, 20 (10/28, 10/30, 11/6, 11/11)**

Jacob Hacker, *The Divided Welfare State*, preface-66, 70-173, 178-269, 274-335

PART 3 – Synthesizing Part 1 and 2

**Class 21, 22, 23, 24 (11/13, 11/18, 11/20, 11/25)**

Desmond King and Robert Lieberman, “American State Building, The Theoretical Challenge,” in *The Unsustainable American State*, edited by Lawrence Jacobs and Desmond King, p. 299-322

Ira Katznelson, *Fear Itself*, p. 3-129, 133-222, 227-363, 367-486

PART 4 - Future of APD and the Challenges to APD

**Class 25 (11/27)**

Adam Sheingate, “The Terrain of the Political Entrepreneur,” *Formative Acts*, edited by Stephen Skowronek and Matthew Glassman, p. 13-31

Richard Hasen, “The 2012 Voting Wars, Judicial Backstops and the Resurrection of Bush v. Gore” in *George Washington Law Review*, p. 1-29

Marie Gottschalk, “Hiding in Plain Sight: American Politics and the Carceral State” in *Annual Review of Political Science*, p. 235-260

Francis Fox Piven, *Governing Authority*, p. 89-95

**Class 26 (12/2) – Go over Rough Draft of Research Presentations**

**Class 27, 28 (12/4, 12/9) - RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS**